

LINCOLN REDS AND THEIR ROLE

by GORDON COOK,
Kettleby, Ontario

To participate in some small way in the World Shorthorn Conference is not only an honour for me but a real pleasure also...even though all three speakers ahead of me did beat me to it in telling how great this breed of mahogany red cattle is.

Since our distinguished breeders from Great Britain have covered the history of these rugged gentle cattle from the 19th century, I guess I'm stuck with...rather, I have decided, to speak to you on the short term, or more specifically, the Lincoln Red cattle in Canada; its impact on, and eventual amalgamation with, the Canadian Shorthorn breed since Senator McRae of British Columbia established the first Canadian Lincolnshire Red Cattle herd of 50 head back in the 1920's.

They were known then as Lincolnshire Red Shorthorns...long, tall, rugged cattle who at that time did not fit into the Shorthorn class.

Canadian Shorthorn breeders present will remember April 13, 1977 as an historic date when the Canadian Lincoln Red Association joined the Canadian Shorthorn Association.

Back in the 1920's a newspaper man, Duncan Marshall, from Bruce County, Ontario, who owned a herd of Shorthorn cattle decided to enter the political arena. He travelled west to Alberta and became Minister of Agriculture for that province. Marshall returned to Ontario where he was elected to the Provincial Government and later appointed Minister of Agriculture.

Not only was the Honourable Duncan Marshall finally appointed to the Canadian Senate, but, according to my investigations, deserves the credit for having the Lincolnshire Red Shorthorn herd of Senator McRae established in a special section of the Canadian Herd Book.

Lincolnshire Red Shorthorn cattle followed along in a special section of the Canadian Shorthorn Herd Book until 1945. But this brings us back in the story to Harold White who began his term as Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Shorthorn Association in 1939. White relayed how he considered it too costly in those days to keep up a special section in the Canadian Shorthorn Book to maintain this one herd of cattle. And from our conversation I'm absolutely certain he was the instigator behind a transfer of the Lincolnshire Red Shorthorns to the Central Herd and Stud Book for registration. (This is the book which accepts all new breeds of animals in Canada).

So, on February 12, 1945, it was moved at the annual meeting by W.J. Russell and seconded by T.A. Robinson that the Lincoln Red cattle be transferred to the General Herd and Stud Book. The motion also stipulated that the Canadian Shorthorn Association would pay for all transfers.

According to my information, Senator McRae went along with all of this, and these cattle remained in a separate registration as a breed until more recent events leading up to the amalgamation of what became known in later years as the Lincoln Red Association with the Canadian Shorthorn Association.

You'll recall that on February 11, 1977, the Canadian Shorthorn Association passed a motion at their annual meeting in Quebec City to include

--2--

the Canadian Lincoln Red Association as part of their own. This motion was followed early in April by a similar one passed in Winnipeg by the Lincoln Red Association.

Finally, on April 13, came the "Summit Meeting" in Guelph of the Canadian Shorthorn Association Executives and Canadian Lincoln Red Directors. There, within a spirit of optimism and co-operation, the following changes were enacted, later receiving approval by the Minister of Agriculture:

1. A registration Certificate for purebred Lincoln Red will have "Canadian Shorthorn Association" as a heading with the words "Lincoln Red" below.
2. The letter "L" be identified with the registration number of pure Lincoln Red animals.
3. From this point forward the Lincoln Red merge their registration numbers with the Shorthorn registration numbers.

The results have been a blending of the genetic potential of Lincoln Reds with the already potent bloodlines available through beef and dual-purpose Shorthorns to produce cattle for today's Shorthorn breeders which are the envy of the entire industry.

I would stress, however, that superior cattle are not produced simply by crossing a Lincoln Red with a Shorthorn. Rather it's imperative to use a top Lincoln Red Bull with superior Shorthorn cows, or a quality Shorthorn bull on top Lincoln Red females to produce the desired large, rugged, natural-fleshed animals with richly coloured coats, easy calving ability and abundant milk.

Their adaptability, minimum maintenance and easy feeding quality on hay or pasture provide Canadian Shorthorn breeders with boundless possibilities.

Already three young Lincoln Red cross Shorthorn bulls have topped all beef breeds at the Nebraska, U.S.A. Bull Testing Station.

As early as 1977 a 3/4 Lincoln Red bull, "Claydene Ever Reddy" was Supreme Champion of Canada's Greatest Cattle Show, the Regina Agribition.

Consider the impact of the Lincoln Red on Shorthorn cattle and I'm sure you'll agree it has been a swift and dramatic one. Is any more evidence needed than the fact that last year in Canada, in the Shorthorn Division, the highest price of \$10,000.00 was paid in a public auction for a pure Lincoln Red bull?

